

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A foldable keyboard including a first keyboard unit, a second keyboard unit, and a rotational connecting part provided between the first and second keyboard units, so that the first and second keyboard units are rotated about the connecting part to come apart from each other into an unfolded, horizontally arranged state for use of the keyboard, while the first and second keyboard units are rotated about the connecting part to come close to each other into a closed, folded state for nonuse of the keyboard, the keyboard including:

5 10 a first support member having a first end and a second end, the first end being pivotally connected to a back wall of the first keyboard unit;

a second support member having a first end and a second end, the first end being pivotally connected to a back wall of the second keyboard unit;

15 wherein the second ends of the first and second support members are pivotally connected with each other, and the first and second support members are set up in a standing orientation in synchronization with the rotation of the first and second keyboard units in a direction which they come apart from each other.

20 2. The foldable keyboard according to claim 1, wherein the back wall of the first keyboard unit includes a first slant face and the back wall of the second keyboard unit includes a second slant face,

the first and second slant faces are tilted at a predetermined angle to an operating plane of the keyboard in use, and

25 the first and second support members are set up in a standing orientation tilting at the predetermined angle to the operating plane of the keyboard when the first and second keyboard units are rotated into the horizontally arranged state.

3. The foldable keyboard according to claim 2 further including a joint plate which pivotally supports the second ends of the first and second support members.

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4. The foldable keyboard according to claim 3, wherein the joint plate includes a hinge structure including two plate parts and a rod turnably connecting the two plate parts with each other, and

10 the second end of the first support member is pivotally connected to one of the plate parts and the second end of the second support member is pivotally connected to the other plate part.

15 5. The foldable keyboard according to claim 1, wherein the first and second keyboard units are provided, on respective back portions symmetrically about the rotational connecting part, with storage parts for storing the first and second support members in a folded state when the first and second keyboard units are superposed one on top of the other.

20 6. A foldable keyboard including a first keyboard unit, a second keyboard unit, and a rotational connecting part provided between the first and second keyboard units, so that the first and second keyboard units are rotated about the connecting part to come apart from each other into an unfolded, horizontally arranged state for use of the keyboard, while the first and second keyboard units are rotated about the connecting part to come 25 close to each other into a closed, folded state for nonuse of the keyboard, the keyboard including:

a connector unit for connecting the keyboard to a portable device;
a first connector storage part formed in the first keyboard unit;

a second connector storage part formed in the second keyboard unit and for storing, in conjunction with the first connector storage part, the connector unit;

5 a first support link which connects the first connector storage part to the connector unit;

a second support link which connects the second connector storage part to the connector unit;

10 wherein the connector unit is moved toward the rotational connecting part from the first and second connector storage parts in synchronization with rotation of the first and second keyboard units in a direction which they come apart from each other, and the connector unit is placed above the rotational connecting part in a substantial center of the keyboard when the first and second keyboard units are rotated into the horizontally arranged state.

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7. The foldable keyboard according to claim 6 further including a stop projection formed in one of the first connector storage part and the second connector storage part to engage one of the first support link and the second support link when the first and second keyboard units are rotated,

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wherein one of the first support link and the second support link engages against the stop projection when the first and second keyboard units are rotated into the horizontally arranged state.

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8. The foldable keyboard according to claim 7, wherein the one of the first support link and the second support link is pushed by the stop projection when the first and second keyboard units are rotated in a direction that they come close to each other.

9. The foldable keyboard according to claim 6, wherein the first and second connector storage parts store, in conjunction, the connector unit when the first and second keyboard units are superposed.